STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Successful launch of second test flight of Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV - D2 from Sriharikota

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRAT MOOKHERJEE): Madam, I am happy to inform this august House that the second test flight of GSLV-D2 was successfully carried out from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, Sriharikota on May 08, 2003.

GSLV-D2 is a three-stage vehicle. It uses solid propellant first stage with four liquid strap-ons and a liquid propellant second stage. While the cryogenic third stage has been supplied by Russia, the control guidance and electronics for the stage have been designed, developed and implemented by ISRO scientists. The 49 metre tall technologically complex GSLV-D2, weighing 400 tonnes, lifted off at 4.58 pm carrying GSAT-2 Satellite. After a perfect count down and about 17 minutes of smooth flight, GSAT-2 spacecraft was successfully placed into its intended orbit. GSLV-D2 has significantly demonstrated a payload capability of 1825 kg., which is about 300 kg. more than what was launched in the first flight. This was made possible by improvements such as the use of higher pressure engines for strap-ons, introduction of improved propellant loading for the core solid stage and optimisation of structural elements. This successful GSLV-D2 flight has validated the various technologies demonstrated during the first flight as well as improvements made for the second flight.

The first signals acquired from the GSAT-2 satellite indicate normal health of the satellite. GSAT-2 will be raised to its final geo-synchronous orbit in the coming days followed by deployment of its solar arrays and antennae. The satellite, in addition to carrying transponders for communication and mobile satellite services, has four scientific experiments.

With this successful flight of GSLV-D2, the payload capability has been established for launching operational communication satellites of 2000 kg. class. Accomplishment of this technologically-challenging mission is the culmination of efforts of ISRO Centres supported by industries and academic institutions in India.

Madam, through you, I request this august House to join me in congratulating ISRO and other participants associated with the successful launch of GSLV-D2.

Madam, since then, some further developments have taken place. I will just take one minute. Multiple orbit raising operations are planned for GSAT-2 satellite to raise its current geo-synchronous transfer orbit. The first of these orbit raising operations was successfully carried out at 8.45 this morning by firing 440 Newton Liquid Apogee Motor on board the satellite for a duration of 47 minutes and 30 seconds. The health of the satellite is normal. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We congratulate all our scientists working for ISRO and associated with this launch. Today, we feel very proud that our scientists have done us really proud by taking India into the international standards of satellite technology.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN (Maharashtra) : Madam, I just want to know from the hon. Minister, what is the status of indigenously-developed cryogenic engine?

SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE: In fact, this particular cryogenic engine was manufactured by the Russian Federation and we have five others which have also been manufactured by the Russian Federation. But, we have progressed in the field and we are also manufacturing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Bagrodia said that it is time for Private Members' Business. But, still, we will encroach on five extra minutes of Private Members' Business, which we will be made up later on. There is also a Government Resolution with Shri I.D. Swami, who is waiting here. If the House so agrees, it is to be passed.

GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION

Approving the Proposal of the Government to Reject the Award Given in CA Reference No: 1/1998

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Madam, I, on behalf of my senior colleague, hon. Deputy Prime Minister, move the following resolution: